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MIDLANDS TODAY: UNIQUE RESOURCE IN PSU LIBRARY

The incredible amount of useful information being developed by federal, state and other agencies now is being organized and made available at Pittsburg State University's Leonard H. Axe Library.

'It would be very difficult to find a subject we don't have information about, literally from A to Z,' said Robert Walter, PSU government documents librarian.

All of the government's publications in more than 2,000 subject areas are received almost daily at Axe Library, Walter said. Additional State of Kansas and Organization of American States publications and materials are available.

'We are building Missouri and Oklahoma collections, too,' Walter said. 'We also can obtain almost any publication from anywhere in the United States and some foreign countries through computer searches and Interlibrary Loan.'

The regional Government Documents Depository at PSU covers most of the third floor of Axe Library and is organized by agency.

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PSU is the only major government documents depository in the region. Included are nearly 100 shelves of congressional proceedings since the 1770's and scores of volumes of the 'Federal Register' and the 'Complete Code of Federal Regulations.'

The depository system was established by Congress in the late 1800's to get information to areas more than a day's horseback ride from Washington. Members of Congress could assign two depositories each in their respective districts on the condition that the selected outlets encourage the public to use the materials and that they be staffed and open to serve the public. The second Kansas Fifth District depository is in Emporia.

PSU's Library also is the only affiliate in this region of the new Kansas Census Data Center of the U.S. Census Bureau. 'Data has been noted on maps of Kansas counties, southeastern Kansas townships and block-by-block in the city of Pittsburg to give a graphic representation to the tabular data,' Walter reports.

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Other unique and useful sections of the huge collection cover a myriad of subjects under such broad agencies as the Bureau of Standards, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Smithsonian Institute, Small Business Administration, FBI, Food and Drug Administration and CIA as well as such major areas as the Department of State, Justice, Labor, Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

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All of the treaties the U.S. has been involved in from 1776 to 1949 fill one shelf while the 34 years since 1949 occupy more than 11 shelves. Other notable selections include daily CIA foreign press translations, the American Statistical Index and Kansas Documents dating back to 1834.

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